AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12 and 16, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having on its surface an adhesion layer containing an organic pigment as a primary component, the method comprising the steps of:

mixing a rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 80 μm to 200 μm with a treating solution ~~containing an~~ prepared by dispersing an organic pigment having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 0.01 μm to 0.5 μm in weakly alkaline water whose pH is controlled to a range of 6.5 to 9.0,

and then drying the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the method further comprises, after the mixing step and before the drying step, a step of obtaining by

filtration the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the organic pigment accounts for 5 wt% to 33 wt% of said treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said treating solution containing the organic pigment comprises an organic dispersing medium.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an adhesion layer containing an organic pigment as a primary component, the method comprising the steps of:

mixing a rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 80 μm to 200 μm, and having one or more layers of coating films formed on the surface thereof with a treating solution ~~containing~~ prepared by dispersing an organic pigment having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 0.01 μm to 0.5 μm in weakly alkaline water whose pH is controlled to a range of 6.5 to 9.0,

and then drying the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the outermost surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claims 17-20 (Canceled).